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Sustainable development

Oceans and the law of the sea

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum

Letter dated 5 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chair of the group of Pacific Islands Forum countries represented in New York, I have the honour to submit herewith the communiqué of the forty-seventh meeting of Pacific Islands Forum leaders (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 19, 73 and 126 (q).

(*Signed*) Jane **Chigiyal**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 5 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Forty-seventh Pacific Islands Forum

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

8-10 September 2016

Forum Communiqué

1. The forty-seventh Pacific Islands Forum was held in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, from 8 to 10 September 2016 and was attended by Heads of State and Government of Australia, the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The Solomon Islands was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister; the Republic of Fiji, Niue and the Republic of Palau by their Ministers of Foreign Affairs; and Kiribati by a Special Envoy. The Forum Leaders' Retreat was held at the Congress Chamber of the Federated States of Micronesia in Palikir on 10 September 2016.

2. French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Tokelau attended the formal session as associate members. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Timor-Leste, Wallis and Futuna, the Asian Development Bank, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the United Nations, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and the World Bank attended as observers. The members of the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific (CROP) — the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Pacific Power Association, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the University of the South Pacific — were represented by their respective heads of organizations.

3. Leaders extended their warmest gratitude to His Excellency President Peter M. Christian and the Government and the people of the Federated States of Micronesia for the excellent arrangements for the 2016 Forum Leaders meeting and warmly thanked the hosts for the generous hospitality extended to them during their stay in Pohnpei.

Priorities identified by the Specialist Subcommittee on Regionalism

4. Leaders noted that in 2016, the Specialist Subcommittee on Regionalism (SSCR) had identified persons with disabilities, oceans, and regional mobility and harmonization of business practices as having met the tests for regionalism specified in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism and warranting Leaders' consideration. Leaders commended the progress made in the implementation of the five priorities endorsed in 2015, which had been identified and proposed by the SSCR through the public submissions process under the Framework: greater economic returns on fisheries and strengthening of maritime surveillance and

enforcement; climate change; information and communications technologies (ICT); cervical cancer; and West Papua (Papua). Leaders also highly commended the national and regional inter-agency coordination and cooperation in implementing the priorities, including with international organizations.

Fisheries

5. Leaders were pleased with the positive collaborative work that has been undertaken by the FFA, the Forum Secretariat, the Parties to the Nauru Agreement Office (PNAO) and the SPC, as the Fisheries Task Force, in implementing their decision on increasing economic returns and ensuring the sustainable management of fisheries. Leaders acknowledged the good work of the PNAO in achieving significant increased economic returns.

6. Leaders endorsed the Fisheries Task Force's Economic Returns Work Programme and Report, and noted that the four areas of work under the Programme — reform of the management of longline fishery; increasing the value of employment and ensuring that effective labour standards are in place; facilitating investment and trade; and value chain participation — are consistent with, and expedite implementation of, several of the goals and strategies in the Fisheries Road Map. Leaders concurred with the view of the Task Force that there is no need to change the management of the purse seine Vessel Day Scheme in the foreseeable future. At the same time, Leaders welcomed the PNAO's openness to considering such a change should it be appropriate at some future time. Leaders acknowledged the importance of ensuring more onshore investment opportunities.

7. Leaders also endorsed the review of the regional Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) arrangements, and concurred that the combination of MCS tools, programmes, assets and activities at the national and regional levels represent a world-class MCS framework that has achieved positive results for FFA members. Leaders noted that there were further improvements that would substantially enhance the MCS at the national and regional levels, and which the FFA would pursue.

8. Leaders called for action to end illegal, unreported and unregulated and fishing and associated activities, including high-seas bunkering, human trafficking and illicit trade. Leaders encouraged the FFA to ensure the rapid implementation of the Tokelau Arrangement. Leaders urged flag States to exercise more diligent efforts in carrying out their flag State responsibilities and control of nationals.

9. Recognizing the ongoing importance of increasing economic returns and the sustainable management of fisheries, Leaders agreed that fisheries should remain on their agenda, and on the need for ongoing cooperation between members of the Task Force to implement the Work Programme.

10. In noting that coastal fisheries management continues to receive inadequate attention at the national level, Leaders agreed to expand the broad heading of "fisheries" to include coastal fisheries, noting links to communities, food security, health issues and in particular non-communicable diseases. Leaders also noted the need to ensure ecosystem integrity to address issues such as ciguatera outbreaks and to sustainably manage bêche-de-mer. To that end, Leaders tasked the SPC to coordinate with national fisheries agencies, CROP agencies and regional and

national community groups to strengthen support and resourcing for coastal fisheries management.

11. With regard to the Regional Road Map for Sustainable Fisheries and its report cards, Leaders noted the good progress and performance on indicators related to sustainability of tuna stocks, access revenue to Governments, and employment rates; the continued commitment to progress work on harvest strategies for tuna stocks; ongoing concerns about the impacts of fish price volatility on indicators such as proportional fishery value, the contribution of domestic fleets to gross domestic product, and the value of exports to other countries; and the need to better understand and improve the contribution of offshore fisheries to food security.

12. Leaders noted the progress in planning for the implementation of work to achieve the goals of the Regional Road Map for Sustainable Fisheries over its 10-year window.

13. Leaders noted the positive outcomes of the final renegotiation session of the Treaty on Fisheries between the Governments of Certain Pacific Island States and the Government of the United States of America, noting that the outcomes provide flexible yet commercially valuable arrangements, as well as a sustainable long-term basis for the delivery of economic assistance from the United States Government. Leaders congratulated Forum Fisheries Ministers on the successful renegotiation of the Treaty and acknowledged the leadership of the late Hon. Minister Elisala Pita of Tuvalu.

Climate change and disaster risk management

14. Leaders reiterated the importance of the Pacific Islands Forum in maintaining a strong voice, considering the region's vulnerabilities to the impact of climate change. Leaders welcomed the Paris Agreement and reinforced that achieving the Agreement goal of limiting global temperature increases to 1.5°C above pre-industrialized levels is an existential matter for many Forum members, which must be addressed with urgency. Leaders congratulated the eight Forum countries that have ratified the Agreement and encouraged remaining members and all other countries to sign and ratify the Agreement before the end of 2016, or as soon as possible. Leaders called for ambitious climate change action in and across all sectors and encouraged key stakeholders to prioritize their support for the implementation of key obligations under the Agreement.

15. Leaders endorsed the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP),[1] agreed that it would be fully elaborated and operationalized upon the entry into force of the Paris Agreement, and recognized its potential to support coordination and action on a number of key issues related to climate change and disaster risk management. Leaders noted that the FRDP is a voluntary non-political framework which does not replace the role of existing regional political statements or declarations on climate change and disaster risk management. Leaders agreed that the Pohnpei Statement: Strengthening Pacific Resilience to Climate Change and

[1] The Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management is available at available online at www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/embeds/file/Annex%201%20-%20Framework%20for%20Resilient%20Development%20in%20the%20Pacific.pdf.

Disaster Risk[2] would complement the FRDP, and tasked the Forum Secretariat to convene a Working Group, including members, CROP agencies and relevant stakeholders, to elaborate on the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) process by December 2016, to implement the FRDP.

16. Leaders welcomed last year's Dubai Pathway on Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), in which Parties to the Montreal Protocol agreed to work towards an amendment this year to phase down HFCs under the Treaty. They highlighted the progress made by Parties at the recent Montreal Protocol meetings in Vienna, and reiterated their support for an amendment to be agreed at the Meeting of the Parties to be held in Kigali this October. Leaders highlighted that such an amendment could prevent warming of up to 0.5°C by 2100 and is therefore critical for achieving the long-term temperature goals of the Paris Agreement.

17. Leaders stressed that the amendment should include an early freeze date for HFC production and consumption, followed by a rapid phase-down of HFCs. They also emphasized the need to maximize the climate benefits of an HFC phase-down by providing incentives to secure the major energy efficiency gains in applications that can be achieved concomitant with the global phase-down of HFCs.

West Papua (Papua)

18. Leaders recognized the political sensitivities of the issue of West Papua (Papua) and agreed that the issue of alleged human rights violations in West Papua (Papua) should remain on their agenda. Leaders also agreed on the importance of an open and constructive dialogue with Indonesia on the issue.

Cervical cancer

19. Leaders considered the need for the development of a regional bulk procurement programme for the cervical cancer vaccine (and screening and related equipment where possible). Leaders noted the existing bulk procurement programme managed by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and urged members to avail themselves of the UNICEF programme.

Regional mobility and harmonization of business practices

20. While recognizing the potential of initiatives on regional mobility and harmonization of business practices to contribute to increased economic integration, greater investment and improved business practices, Leaders noted the potential to duplicate processes already under way through the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus, the Melanesian Spearhead Group Trade Agreement and the Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting. Leaders tasked the Secretariat to work with Forum members, relevant technical agencies and the private sector to coordinate efforts for increased mobility and harmonization of business practices in the region.

21. Leaders noted the messages conveyed by the private sector through the Private Sector Dialogue. Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to support private sector development in the region with a focus on improved mobility of businesses and

[2] See enclosure 1 to the present annex.

skilled personnel, including the streamlining of business processes to support the ease of doing business in the Pacific. Leaders directed relevant Ministerial Meetings to lead and monitor progress on the implementation of these initiatives as appropriate.

22. Leaders discussed the importance of remittances to the economic well-being of Forum island countries (FICs) and expressed concern at the proposed wholesale closure of money transfer agents' bank accounts abroad without due de-risking consideration and proper understanding of the impacts on members.

Persons with disabilities

23. Leaders acknowledged that disability continues to be an issue of significance for the region, reflecting on the region's ability to protect the marginalized, as well as those that have been left behind in development processes. Leaders recognized that persons living with disabilities, and their families, continue to be disproportionately affected by poverty due to inaccessible services and the built environment, which prevent them from participating independently and being included in their own societies.

24. Leaders endorsed the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PFRPD) 2016-2025 to support Pacific Governments in promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and provide a regional modality to strengthen coordination and collaboration in support of national initiatives. Leaders tasked the Forum Secretariat to coordinate the effective implementation of the PFRPD and work with Forum member countries, CROP agencies, the Pacific Disability Forum and development partners to mainstream the PFRPD at the regional and national levels.

2015 priorities for referral for ministerial oversight and cross-cutting themes

25. Leaders endorsed the SSCR's recommendation that the 2015 priorities relating to ICT and cervical cancer (national policy responses) be referred to the relevant ministries for discussion and oversight. Leaders agreed that, while important, these issues do not require their continued discussion to be progressed. Leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to continue to focus on the issues of gender and poverty, and encouraged Ministers and Officials to mainstream both gender and poverty across all sectoral and thematic areas of work.

Oceans

26. Leaders reaffirmed that the Pacific region's most important natural resource is the ocean. Leaders recalled that the Pacific had shown strong global leadership on oceans through the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and in ensuring a stand-alone Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on the oceans and seas (SDG 14). Leaders noted that the United Nations Conference on Oceans and Seas to support the implementation of SDG 14, 5-9 June 2017, will now be held in New York. The Conference will provide the Pacific with another opportunity to lead the way and demonstrate its collective interest in the sustainable development,

management and conservation of the Pacific Ocean and its resources, including through the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC).

27. Leaders recalled their support for negotiations towards implementing a new agreement to deal with biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, and acknowledged the technical support coordinated through the OPOC at discussions under way on the issue at the United Nations. Leaders agreed on the importance of maintaining the Pacific momentum towards a swift conclusion of the Preparatory Committee, to ensure approaches to ocean management across jurisdictions that do not undermine existing regional fisheries management arrangements. To that end, and noting the global attention to oceans, Leaders endorsed the Pohnpei Oceans Statement: A Course to Sustainability[3] and reaffirmed their support to the OPOC, given its central coordination role with respect to ocean governance and integrated ocean management in the region, under the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

28. Leaders commended progress by the Pacific Sustainable Development Goals Task Force and Reference Group on the development of a draft outline of the Pacific SDGs Road Map for regional reporting and implementation of the SDGs, the SAMOA Pathway and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. Leaders noted that the final Road Map will be submitted for approval in September 2017.

29. Leaders acknowledged the regional leadership role by Samoa in being the first Pacific country and small island developing State to submit its national voluntary report on the SDGs at the high-level political forum on sustainable development in July 2016.

Membership

30. Leaders accepted French Polynesia and New Caledonia as full members of the Pacific Islands Forum.

Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands

31. Leaders applauded the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) as a regional success story that has also contributed to strengthening regional cooperation and capacity-building on security. Leaders welcomed the initiative taken by the Solomon Islands Government in addressing the underlying causes of the ethnic tension, which include prioritization and sequencing of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations, land reform initiatives, legislative reforms, economic development initiatives and healing processes. Leaders welcomed commitments from the Governments of Australia and New Zealand that support to Solomon Islands will continue post-RAMSI, including to the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force, and will be developed in close consultation

[3] See enclosure 2 to the present annex.

and coordination with the Solomon Islands Government. Leaders applauded the significant progress made so far in the drawdown of RAMSI and supported the oversight role of the Pacific Islands Forum on the eventual withdrawal of RAMSI in June 2017.

Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus

32. Leaders reiterated the need for PACER Plus to promote regional integration in the Pacific, and to assist the FICs to achieve robust economic growth and sustainable development. In that regard, Leaders welcomed the conclusion of negotiations on all 15 chapters of the PACER Plus text and called on all participants to continue to demonstrate goodwill and flexibility. Leaders noted that a timetable has been agreed for the conclusion of market access negotiations by the end of October 2016, and for the Agreement to be signed by the end of 2016. Leaders noted the withdrawal by Papua New Guinea from PACER Plus and reservations by Fiji on the current legal text.

33. Leaders welcomed the commitment by Australia and New Zealand to provide appropriate resources for the implementation of PACER Plus with respect to the development and economic cooperation chapter of the text, and for the broader trade related assistance needs of the FICs. This includes an initial joint A$ 7.7 million Readiness Package to be available to signatories between signature and entry into force, to assist in undertaking necessary work for the ratification process of PACER Plus.

34. Leaders noted that the conclusions and recommendations of the Sustainable Impact Assessment, prepared by the Office of the Chief Trade Adviser in consultation with relevant stakeholders, would be used as a basis for ongoing engagement with stakeholders on the possible economic, social and environmental impacts of trade liberalization under PACER Plus.

Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration

35. Leaders noted that since the adoption of the 2012 Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED), regional progress on achieving gender equality has generally improved, albeit slowly. Common challenges include attitudinal and behavioural barriers, insufficient funding, and fragmentation and lack of coordination among agencies.

36. Leaders agreed that future reporting on the PLGED would comprise: a full report on progress against the PLGED, incorporated into the proposed quadrennial regional reporting of progress against the SDGs, with the first regional report proposed for 2018; and a report on a particular theme/area of the PLGED prepared biennially, between the full regional SDGs report, to maintain a focus on progressing gender-related commitments.

Cybersecurity

37. Leaders welcomed the exponential growth in Internet connectivity in the region and access to world markets and global knowledge it brings. Leaders agreed that Forum members should work together to establish a Computer Emergency Response Team capacity for the region to combat cyberthreats and cybercrime.

Criminal deportees

38. Leaders noted the challenges and inherent security risks faced by Forum members relating to the growing number of criminal deportations from metropolitan countries.

Radioactive contaminants in the Republic of the Marshall Islands

39. Leaders recalled that the Republic of the Marshall Islands was placed by the international community under the trusteeship of the United Nations administered by the United States of America, both of which therefore have ongoing obligations to encourage a final and just resolution for the Marshallese people. Leaders welcomed the recommendations in the Special Rapporteur's report submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Council in September 2012.

40. Leaders supported bilateral, regional and multilateral action to assist the Republic of the Marshall Islands in its efforts to engage the United States towards a justified fair and just resolution to the United States Nuclear Testing Programme and agreed to submit letters to the United States Government urging the United States to take further action to meaningfully address the ongoing impacts resulting from the United States Nuclear Testing Programme, and to the United Nations Secretary-General seeking action in response to the recommendations contained in the 2012 report of the Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Human Rights Council for "the international community, including relevant United Nations departments, funds and agencies" to address the ongoing impacts of nuclear testing in the Pacific.

41. Leaders tasked the Forum Secretariat to coordinate assistance by CROP agencies to the Republic of the Marshall Islands in addressing ongoing impacts of nuclear testing, including, inter alia, human rights, environmental contamination, and health impacts. Leaders also tasked the Pacific Islands Forum Secretary-General to report to the forty-eighth Pacific Islands Forum on actions taken in this regard.

Post-Forum dialogue application

42. Leaders agreed to admit the Federal Republic of Germany as the eighteenth Post-Forum Dialogue Partner, and noted that it will attend the twenty-eighth Post-Forum Dialogue Plenary Meeting, in 2016.

Candidacies

43. Leaders supported the candidacies of Australia to the Human Rights Council for 2018-2020 and the Cook Islands to the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for 2017.

Outcomes of the Smaller Island States Leaders Meeting

44. Leaders endorsed the Smaller Island States (SIS) Regional Strategy as the basis for articulating SIS regional priorities and aspirations with the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

45. Leaders noted the outcomes of the SIS Leaders Meeting held in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, on 7 September 2016 and welcomed the SIS Leaders' decision to admit the Federated States of Micronesia in the SIS Group.

Venue for next meeting

46. Leaders confirmed Samoa as the host for the 2017 Forum, Nauru for 2018 and Tuvalu for 2019.

Enclosure 1

Pohnpei Statement: Strengthening Pacific Resilience to Climate Change and Disaster Risk

1. At their meeting held in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, from 8 to 10 September 2016, the Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum expressed their deep concern about the vulnerability of the Pacific to climate change impacts and natural hazards.

2. Leaders reiterated the importance of amplifying the Pacific voice, ensuring the early entry into force of the Paris Agreement, and securing support to deliver on commitments under the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Leaders emphasized their commitment to address climate change and disaster resilience as expressed in other regional declarations, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals.

3. Leaders endorsed the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (FRDP) and agreed that it would be fully elaborated and operationalized upon the entry into force of the Paris Agreement and recognized its potential to support coordination and action on a number of key issues related to climate change and disaster risk management.

4. Leaders emphasized the importance of immediate, significant and coordinated practical action to address climate change and disaster risk management. Leaders agreed that such action would be guided by the FRDP and the following principles:

(a) Effective action to build resilience to climate change and disasters in the Pacific will complement broader efforts to build a stable and secure Pacific, and enhance opportunities for sustainable and inclusive development;

(b) Financing and action on climate change and disaster risk management in the Pacific should be in accordance with nationally led and determined and agreed regional priorities;

(c) Simplified processes and effective funding mechanisms to enhance access to climate change and disaster risk financing for implementation;

(d) Recognition that in addition to national Governments and development partners, effective action will also come from the private sector, technical and educational institutions, and civil society;

(e) Coordinated implementation of the FRDP will involve working across local, national, regional and international agencies to ensure a more resilient Pacific;

(f) Disaster response and early recovery should be nationally led and supported by regional and international efforts;

(g) Recognition that, in line with the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, effective action to build resilience will require greater coordination and collaboration;

(h) Acknowledgement that our Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific will continue to provide valuable coordination, policy advice, applied scientific and technical expertise, capacity supplementation and capacity-building support for action on climate change and disaster risk management.

5. Leaders called on all development partners, the private sector and civil society to join with Pacific island countries and territories to support the principles and the implementation of this statement through high-level participation in a new Pacific Resilience Partnership.

Enclosure 2

Pohnpei Ocean Statement: A Course to Sustainability

We, the Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments of the Pacific Island Forum, gathered in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, on 11 September 2016,

1. Recognize the inseparable link between our ocean, seas and Pacific island peoples: their values, traditional practices and spiritual connections. The invaluable methods and principles passed down from our forebears are key to a sustainable future for our ocean. We are custodians of some of the world's richest biodiversity and marine resources and recognize that this natural endowment is our greatest asset that must be sustainably managed for the benefit of our present and future generations. A shared Ocean means a shared responsibility and shared benefits for our environment, our economies and our communities. We also acknowledge that the ocean brings unity in a diverse and dynamically evolving world. Therefore, as guardians of the largest portion of the Pacific Ocean, our leadership matters;

2. Recognize that the ocean is the basis of livelihoods for Pacific peoples and is also susceptible to the effects of climate change. In this regard, we call for early action by all countries to ratify and implement the Paris Agreement and provide adequate and simplified access to finance for adaptation and mitigation by Pacific small island developing States (SIDS) to address the impacts of sea-level rise and climate change;

3. Reaffirm our call to action under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, the 2014 Palau Declaration: "The Ocean: Life and Future", to chart a course to sustainability and its support of the "precautionary principle". We also reaffirm the 2002 Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy and the 2010 Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape: "Our Sea of Islands, Our Livelihoods, Our Oceania" and the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific as our guiding regional Ocean policy instruments and reaffirm our commitment to implementing the Regional Road Map for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries to ensure that our ocean and its resources are managed sustainably;

4. Support the decisions taken by the Leaders of smaller island States in June 2016 and recognize the importance of sustaining and preserving our coral reefs to the health and well-being of our most vulnerable communities. We encourage investments in science and research in order to better understand the capacity of our Ocean to provide for our future, and we underscore the unique and particular vulnerabilities of Pacific small island developing States in managing these natural assets, including the need to understand and build resilience to ocean acidification;

5. Welcome the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a universal, overarching plan for eradicating poverty, fighting inequalities, building peaceful, inclusive and resilient societies, and securing the future of the planet and the well-being of future generations;

6. Commit to continue the strong leadership as demonstrated by the Pacific region in calling for urgent action on oceans which led to the adoption of

Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14) and its many targets, including: the prevention and reduction of marine pollution of all kinds; sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems; minimizing and addressing the impacts of ocean acidification; conservation of marine areas, sustainable management of fisheries and the elimination of fisheries subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; and increasing economic benefits for all from the ocean, including fisheries, aquaculture and tourism;

7. Underscore the need for meaningful implementation of SDG 14 commitments, in particular, genuine and durable "partnerships for action", as articulated in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, to accelerate the realization of our regional and national commitments towards our common global vision, and recognize that this should be country-led and country-driven;

8. Call on the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, regional and subregional organizations and commissions and partners of the Pacific Ocean Alliance, based on their individual mandates, competencies and comparative advantages, to provide the necessary technical, financial and administrative support to countries' implementation of SDG 14;

9. Note the opportunity presented by the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development, held in June 2017. We reaffirm the leadership, advocacy and facilitative role of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner under the region's Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape, to coordinate with Forum member States and partners in the Pacific Ocean Alliance, Pacific regional engagement, technical support and initiatives for the United Nations Conference;

10. Reflect on the significant international developments over the past year on oceans, and urge a timely and comprehensive conclusion to the Preparatory Committee process established to make substantive recommendations to the United Nations General Assembly on the elements of a draft text of an international legally binding instrument, under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. We support the convening of a time-bound intergovernmental conference no later than during the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly;

11. Commit to this shared vision for a secure future for our people based on the sustainable development, management and conservation of our Ocean and its resources. To ensure that no one is left behind, we must embrace transformative change and action now.